



Rockland Energy Committee
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2009

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ROCKLAND AWARDED \$180K GRANT TO FUND SOLAR PANELS AT HIGH SCHOOL

Newly-formed Energy Committee, local officials instrumental in securing highly-sought funding for town

(ROCKLAND, MA) – The Rockland Energy Committee is extremely pleased to announce that the town of Rockland has been awarded \$180,000 from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative’s (MTC) *Clean Energy Choice*® grant program. The funding, which the Committee applied for during a lengthy application process completed last November, will be used to construct a 20.6-kilowatt Photovoltaic Solar Array on the roof of the Rockland High School.

“Since our Committee joined together in late 2007, we’ve accomplished a number of initiatives for Rockland. We’re absolutely thrilled the town was awarded this important funding. It represents yet another step towards Rockland becoming a truly ‘green’ community,” said Carol Perilli, Chair of Rockland’s Energy Committee.

In awarding its third round of grant funding through the *Clean Energy Choice*® low-income matching grant program, the MTC sought proposals that aimed to support energy efficiency measures and renewable energy installations. Rockland was one of four municipalities that included the City of Boston, Rehoboth, and Northampton who received a total of \$700,000 for such projects. Strong consideration during the application process was given to buildings with high energy efficiency ratings.

In November 2007, just three months after being formed, the Energy Committee formed a partnership with National Grid that led to the completion of a free energy audit of the high school. This allowed the Energy Committee – in partnership with the School Committee and administration – to better understand the energy needs of the school, and begin applying for renewable energy grants to further address the school’s energy needs.

“Rockland is traditionally a blue-collar community,” added Perilli. “Although we believe an overwhelming majority of residents are 100% behind our efforts to make Rockland a ‘green’ community, it’s an endeavor that is fiscally impossible to support exclusively through local funding. The partnerships that we have formed with fellow town officials, National Grid, state and federal agencies and, most importantly, Congressman Delahunt, Senator Morrissey and Representative Nyman have been invaluable to the success of our efforts. I can’t imagine where we’d be without all of their support in our endeavors.”

In addition to saving the school department an estimated \$4,000 annually in energy costs, the solar panels – once constructed – will be incorporated into a larger renewable energy education program as part of the school curriculum. Members of the school community believe that such a curriculum will be a great fit within the school, which presently serves 800 students. At the high school there has been a growing effort by administrators and faculty to teach students about the importance of renewable and sustainable energy practices. Just last year, there was also an Environmental Club formed at the school that has actively engaged students in these issues. Additionally, the project will serve as an important learning opportunity for all the many residents who frequent the building for the multiple community purposes it hosts.

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Established in August 2007, the Rockland Energy Committee is currently made up of 6 Rockland residents – Carol Perilli, Jim Paul, Mike Mullen, Jr., Heidi Hosmer, Frank DelPrete and Steve Johnson. More information about the Committee can be found at www.rockland-ma.gov, or by e-mailing energy@rockland-ma.gov